United Nations A/55/919/Add.2

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 May 2001

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 166
Election of judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Curricula vitae of candidates nominated by States Members of the United Nations and by non-member States maintaining permanent observer missions at United Nations Headquarters

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Curriculum vitae of Romeo T. Capulong

The following text should be added to, and follow on from, that currently appearing on pages 28 and 29.

Romeo T. Capulong (Philippines)

Profile

Mr. Capulong is the Philippines' leading human rights lawyer. As counsel and lead spokesperson in all principal human rights cases in the country for the past two decades, he is the nation's pioneer in international humanitarian and public interest law, developmental legal aid, class action litigation and criminal defence.

Most recently, Mr. Capulong served as prosecutor in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Ejercito Estrada for economic plunder. The trial sparked "People Power II", the peaceful transfer of power to the Government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that won the Filipino people the Nobel Peace Prize — the first such honour to be bestowed on a people and nation. Mr. Capulong was plaintiffs' counsel in *Marcos Human Rights Litigation*, the landmark class action suit that produced a $2 billion dollar judgement for 10,000 victims of torture, summary execution and disappearances during the Marcos dictatorship; counsel to

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Flor Contemplacion, the Filipina migrant worker whose execution abroad exposed the plight of the more than four million Filipino migrant workers; and counsel to Filipina victims of sexual slavery ("comfort women") during the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in World War II.

He currently serves as counsel to peace talks between the Philippine Government and the National Democratic Front. He helped craft 10 bilateral agreements in this capacity, including the landmark Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law. Mr. Capulong is counsel to plaintiffs in the infamous Payatas Garbage Dump Slide, which buried more than 200 urban poor dwellers; the "Maharlika 26", involving the frame-up of 26 Muslims in various Manila bombings; and the 2,000 families being illegally evicted from Hacienda Looc to make way for a luxury golf course and tourist accommodations.

Mr. Capulong is defence lawyer to such persecuted political personalities as Jose Maria Sison; labor leader Crispin Beltran; political activist Satur Ocampo; and peasant leader Rafael Mariano. One of his most prominent clients — and mentors — was the late martyr Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., who was jailed during the Marcos dictatorship and whose 1983 assassination triggered the People Power Revolution that returned democratic government to the country.

Mr. Capulong concurrently has been at the forefront of Philippine politics. After training with the late Solicitor General and Senator Juan R. Liwag, the country's then pre-eminent criminal defence attorney, he served as Secretary to the late Nueva Ecija provincial Governor Eduardo L. Joson from 1960 to 1969, acting as the chief executive's legal adviser, Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer, and directing the provincial legal aid office that rendered pro bono legal assistance to poor peasants.

In 1970, he was elected to the Republic's Constitutional Convention. Until the declaration of martial law and dissolution of the Convention in 1972, he authored provisions addressing monopoly of land ownership, widespread peasant landlessness in a country composed of 70 per cent peasants, and economic and political sovereignty. With stalwarts Lorenzo Tanada, Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., Francisco Rodrigo, Neptali Gonzales, Aquilino Pimentel, Jr. and Jose Yap, among others, he led the opposition to then President and later dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

With these leaders, Mr. Capulong was arrested upon the declaration of martial law. In 1979, he was forced to flee the country to avoid political detention, torture or summary execution by the dictatorship.

He sought and was granted political asylum in the United States in 1980 — one of the first such approvals, which set a precedent for leaders later exiled by the dictatorship. Between 1979 and 1986, when the dictatorship fell, Mr. Capulong practised public interest law in New York; founded and chaired the Philippine Center for Immigrant Rights, a non-profit institution that rendered legal and organizing assistance to the Filipino community in the greater New York area; and founded and chaired the 25-member Filipino Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, which documented human rights violations committed by the dictatorship and established solidarity links between Philippine and United States international human rights organizations.

Mr. Capulong returned to the Philippines in 1986, resumed law practice, and in 1989 founded the country's first public interest law firm, the Public Interest Law Center.

He speaks and publishes extensively in his areas of expertise. Most recently, he designed, introduced and delivered lectures on a public interest law curriculum for lawyers in the Department of Justice, the Department of Agrarian Reform and the Department of Labour and Employment and law students in the nation's top universities. He has also participated in fact-finding missions, trained lawyers and paralegals, advocated in the Commission on Human Rights and presented papers in international conferences on human rights and international humanitarian law.

Education

University of the Philippines: Bachelor of Laws, Bachelor of Jurisprudence and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 1957.

Professional activities

Public Interest Law Center, Manila, Philippines: Founder, Chairperson and Managing Counsel, 1989-present.

Philippine Peace Center, Manila, Philippines: President, 1989-present.

Filipino Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, New York, United States: Founder and Chairperson, 1980-1986.

Philippine Center for Immigrant Rights, New York, United States: Founder and Chairperson, 1985-1989.

Capulong, Cruz and Associates, Manila, Philippines: Senior and Managing Partner, 1973-1979.

Constitutional Convention of the Republic of the Philippines: Delegate, 1971-1973.

Daza, Medel, Capulong and Associates, Manila, Philippines: Senior Partner, 1971-1973.

Governor Eduardo L. Joson, Nueva Ecija, Philippines: Provincial Secretary and Confidential Assistant, 1960-1969.

Liwag Law Office, Manila, Philippines: Associate, 1957-1959.

Memberships and associations

Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines (compulsory bar association): Chairperson, Committee on Human Rights and Due Process, 1990-present; President, Nueva Ecija Chapter, 1990-present; Member, Board of Governors and Ex-Officio Vice President for Central Luzon, 1994-2000.

Philippine Bar Association: Chairperson, Committee on Human Rights, 1990-present.

National Lawyers Guild, New York, United States: Member, 1980-present.

International Association of Lawyers Against Nuclear Arms, The Hague, Netherlands: Member, 1990-present.

Free Legal Assistance Group, Manila, Philippines: Member, 1989-present.

Laban Party, Manila Philippines: Founding Member and First Deputy Secretary General, 1978.

Recent awards and honours

Outstanding Private Prosecutor, Impeachment Trial of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, Philippine Senate, 2001.

Most Outstanding Alumnus of the University of the Philippines College of Law, 2000.

Centennial Award, Most Outstanding Novo-Ecijano in the field of Law and Human Rights, 2000.

Bar memberships

Philippine Bar, 1958.

New York, United States, 1980.